

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3731

INFO CJCS

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12216

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJ: CONSCRIPTION STATUS REPORT

REF: PHNOM PENH 12082

1. SUMMARY. THANKS TO A STEADY STREAM OF VOLUNTEERS, MANY OF THEM DESTINED FOR THE PHNOM PENH SUBDIVISION, THE NUMBER OF NEW RECRUITS HAS AVERAGED NEARLY 400 OVER THE PAST FOUR DAYS. EFFORTS TO GET CONSCRIPTION ROLLING IN KANDAL PROVINCE SURROUNDING PHNOM PENH, HOWEVER, HAVE MET WITH ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS WHILE ABSENTEEISM AND OTHER DEFICIENCIES IN THE TRAINING CENTERS CONTINUE TO BE A BOTHERSOME PROBLEM. THE NAVY RECRUITMENT PROGRAM IS MOVING FORWARD AND THE NAVY TRAINING CENTER, WHICH IS FILLED TO ALMOST DOUBLE ITS NORMAL CAPACITY, IS HELPING TO TRAIN FANK RECRUITS AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 7 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER REPORTED A TOTAL OF 6357 NEW RECRUITS, 5577 OF

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THEM VOLUNTEERS AND 780 CONSCRIPTS. THE COUNT FOR TODAY

WAS 409 AT 1630 HOURS WITH MORE FYLL ARRIVING. FINAL RESULTS FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS WERE: NOVEJOER 5, 339; NOVEMBER 6, 583; AND NOVEMBER 7, 21 ;

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITED KANDAL GOVERNOR TES PHNIET TODAY AND FOUND HIM UNENTHUSIASTIC AS WELL AS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION EFFORT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED IN HIS PROVINCE. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A GOAL OF 2000 RECRUITS, HALF OF WHICH ARE TO BE VOLUNTEERS, BUT NOTED THAT THERE ARE ONLY 933 PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 35 ON HIS REGISTRATION LIST. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EFFORTS TO EXPAND THESE LISTS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN. ABOUT 100 PERSONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECRUITED AND SENT TO FANK RECEPTION CENTER, HE ESTIMATED (BUT FANK SAYS IT HAS UNDER 50). TES PHNIET ATTRIBUTED MUCH OF THE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING RECRUITS TO THE BAD REPUTATION THE ARMY HAS GAINED AS A RESULT OF LOOTING AND OTHER EXCESSES BY INTERVENTION TROOPS IN THE TAKHMAU REGION.

4. THE KHMER NAVY (MNK) HAS PROVIDED US INFORMATION ON ITS RECRUITMENT PROGRAM WHICH BEGAN WELL BEFORE THE CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN AND IS STILL CONTINUING. SINCE MAY 1973, THE MNK HAS RECRUITED 4,050 MEN OF WHICH 1,073 SUBSEQUENTLY DESERTED. ONLY 628 OF THESE FIGURE IN OUR TOTALS AS THE REST HAVE NOT BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH THE RECEPTION CENTER. THE MNK TRAINING CENTER AT CHRUI CHANGWAR NOW HAS AN ON BOARD COUNT OF 1,889 OR NEARLY DOUBLE ITS NORMAL CAPACITY. ACCORDING TO RECEPTION CENTER AND CITY OFFICIALS, THE RECEPTION CENTER RECRUITS ARE DESTINED FOR THE PHNOM PENH SPECIAL REGION, BUT MNK SOURCES STATE THEY WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF JOINING THE NAVY.

5. FOLLOWING ARE DATA ON TRAINING CENTERS GATHERED DURING RECENT MEDTC FIELD TRIPS:

A. AS OF NOVEMBER 3, KAMBOL REPORTED 928 RECRUITS IN TRAINING AND 95 AWOL. ILLNESS REMAINS A PROBLEM WITH MORE THAN 100 RECRUITS REPORTING DAILY ON SICK CALL.

B. AS OF NOVEMBER 5, PREY SAR REPORTED 2,184 RECRUITS
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PRESENT FOR TRAINING. THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS AWOL ROSE STEADILY OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO 205. THE SICK CALL RATE IS STILL HIGH, BETWEEN 150 AND 200 EACH DAY.

C. KAMPONG SPEU HAD 498 NEW RECRUITS AMONG ITS TOTAL 1,189 TRAINEES AS OF NOVEMBER 3 (THIS TOTAL HAS RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE). ONLY FIVE RECRUITS WERE AWOL.

D. AS OF NOVEMBER 7, SISOPHON REPORTED 913 RECRUITS

AMONG ITS 1,551 TRAINEES BUT WE BELIEVE MOST OF THESE
PREDATE TO OCTOBER RECRUITMENT/CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.
THERE HAVE BEEN 15 DESERTERS AND THE SICK CALL RATE IS
ABOUT 100 PER DAY INCLUDING MILITARY DEPENDENTS.

E. AS OF NOVEMBER 3, REAM HAD ONLY 38 RECRUITS IN
TRAINING.

F. LOVEK ON NOVEMBER 7 HAD 367 RECRUITS AND CARRIED
332 AS AWOL. THIS CENTER CONTINUES TO HAVE SERIOUS
MORALE, SECURITY AND EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS, AND NO MORE
RECRUITS ARE BEING SENT THERE FOR THE TIME BEING.
ENDERS

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NNN

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